

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING LIGHTING
BASED ON USER BEHAVIOR

TV
04/06/05
This application is a continuation of 10/029,831 filed on 12/27/2001 (Patent No. 6,724,159)

5 **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to methods and apparatus for controlling lighting devices, and more particularly, to a method and apparatus for automatically controlling lighting devices based on user activity.

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Background of the Invention

The consumer marketplace offers a number of lighting devices and lighting controllers that include features intended to increase the convenience and capabilities of these devices.

15 Many available lighting devices, for example, have an associated remote control device that allows the user to adjust a number of the light settings remotely. For example, a user can typically activate a light or adjust the intensity, direction or other settings of the light using the remote control. The Clapper™
20 lighting controller, for example, controls lights or other appliances by detecting the sound of clapping hands. In one variation, the Clapper™ lighting controller can control multiple lights or appliances, with each device assigned a unique number of claps to control the device.

25 While such remote controls have greatly improved the convenience of lighting devices, they still require the affirmative action of the user to manipulate the remote control (or another input mechanism associated with the device) to turn on the light or to indicate the manner in which the light should
30 be adjusted. Thus, if the remote control is not readily available, or the user does not wish to move closer to the device itself, the user may still be unable to conveniently activate the lighting device or adjust one or more light settings in a desired manner.